

***Erigeron oregonus* Gray**
gorge daisy
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G3S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1955): A perennial with a stout, mostly simple, short, thickened crown and stout root. The glandular and somewhat sticky herbage is covered with long, soft, fine hairs. The stem is lax and 2 to 6 in. (5 to 15 cm) long. The basal leaves are tufted, spatulate to obovate, coarsely toothed or incised, up to 3½ in. (9 cm) long, and 1 in. (2½ cm) wide. The stem leaves are well developed, broadly lanceolate to elliptic or ovate, and up to 1 2/3 in. (4 cm) long and ½ in. (1 cm) wide. There are 1 to several heads in a leafy inflorescence. The disk is ½ in. (9 to 13 mm) wide. The involucre is ¼ in. (5 to 7 mm) high, glandular and somewhat sticky and covered with long, soft, fine trichomes (hairs). The bracts of the involucre are loose, equal, thin, and green. There are mostly 30 to 60 rays, which are bluish to more often pink or white, and ¼ in. (5 to 8 mm) long. The disk corollas are usually 1/8 to ¼ in. (3½ to 4¾ mm) long. The pappus is simple with about 15 to 20 bristles, which are characteristically curled and twisted for at least the upper half.

Identification Tips: This species is best distinguished from other species in the genus by the combination of its tufted, spatula-shaped basal leaves with blunt teeth and its leafy stem. No other species of *Erigeron* with those characteristics occur in the Columbia Gorge. A technical key is recommended for positive identification.

Phenology: Flowers from May to August.

Range: This species is endemic to the Columbia River gorge and is most frequently collected on the Oregon side. In Washington, *E. oregonus* is found in Skamania and Wahkiakum counties.

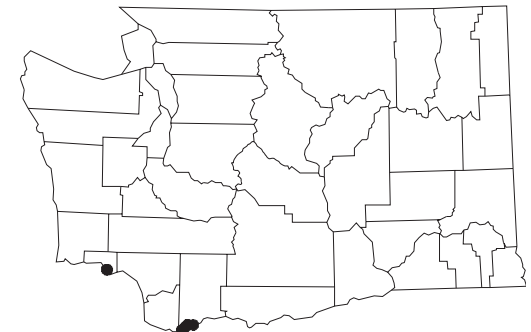
Habitat: This species grows on moist, shady basalt cliffs and ledges, typically beneath overhangs, and is often found near waterfalls. It is typically found at an elevation of 50 to 1200 ft (15 to 366 m). Common associates include rock penstemon (*Penstemon rupicola*), harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Oregon stonecrop (*Sedum oregonum*), polypody (*Polypodium* sp.), and pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*).

Erigeron oregonus
gorge daisy



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Known distribution of
Erigeron oregonus
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Ecology: Gorge daisy grows in wet environments on basalt outcroppings in the Columbia River gorge.

State Status Comments: This species is limited in both its geographic distribution (Columbia River Gorge) and its habitat requirements (moist, shaded, exposed basalt).

Inventory Needs: Moist basalt areas along the Columbia River gorge should be systematically surveyed for additional occurrences and updated information should be gathered from known populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: The small range of *E. oregonus* in Washington and the small number of known occurrences are major concerns. Populations could be negatively affected by upslope activities that have an impact on site hydrology.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1955. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 5: Compositae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 343 pp.